

Meeting Minutes

Finance Committee, April 1, 2013

Call to Order: 6:30 PM

Members in attendance: Chairman S Jon Stumpf, Mark Merritt, Peggy Kruse, Joanne Marden, Paul Fortier, Linn Anderson, Eugenie Moffitt, Mary O'Donoghue. Also present Finance Director Donna Walsh.

Warrant Articles – Special Dedicated Funds

Additional information was provided relating to the Off-street Parking Program (P-39). Discussion followed.

Warrant Articles – Water/Sewer

The Finance Director provided additional information relating to the Water/Sewer articles. The Water treatment plant improvements (P-43) in the amount of \$100,000 will be paid for out of water reserves. Discussion followed.

On a motion by Mr Merritt, seconded by Ms Kruse, the Committee voted to approve Article 41, Water Main replacement, in the amount of \$1,000,000. The motion passed 8-0.

On a motion by Mr Merritt, seconded by Ms Kruse, the Committee voted to approve Article 42, Water Distribution maintenance, in the amount of \$500,000. The motion passed 8-0.

On a motion by Mr Merritt, seconded by Ms Kruse, the Committee voted to approve Article 43, Water Treatment plant improvement, in the amount of \$100,000, from water reserves. The motion passed 8-0.

On a motion by Mr Merritt, seconded by Ms Kruse, the Committee voted to approve Article 44, Water and Sewer vehicles, in the amount of \$140,000. The motion passed 8-0.

On a motion by Mr Merritt, seconded by Ms Kruse, the Committee voted to approve Article 45, Water Distribution Flushing program, in the amount of \$195,000. The motion passed 8-0.

The Fire Hydrant Infrastructure maintenance program was discussed. On a motion by Mr Merritt, seconded by Ms Kruse, the Committee voted to approve Article 46, Fire Hydrant Infrastructure maintenance program, in the amount of \$1,000,000. The motion passed 8-0.

Warrant Articles – Zoning

The question about whether the Finance Committee should take a position, or not, on zoning articles was discussed. Historically the Finance Committee has not taken a position on zoning articles since substantive financial information is not available. Discussion followed. The Finance Committee decided to continue not taking a position on zoning articles.

Warrant Articles – General Fund Borrowing

Discussion continued regarding general fund borrowing articles. The Town Manager proposed reducing the Town and School building maintenance articles by 50%; Town building maintenance (P-28) reduced to \$300,000 and School building maintenance (P-36) to \$500,000.

The Land acquisition, 141 Chandler Road, Article P-33 was discussed. On a motion by Mr Merritt, seconded by Ms Kruse, the Committee voted to approve Article 33 in the amount of \$775,000. The motion passed 8-0.

The West Middle School heating system, article P-38 was discussed. Conversation focused on if we do not approve this article, and the heating system fails, the consequences on the school. On a motion by Mr Merritt, seconded by Ms Kruse, the Committee voted to approve Article 38 in the amount of \$1,250,000. The motion passed 7-0, with one abstention.

School Budget

The school budget was discussed. Currently there is a difference between the Town Manager's recommendation and the School Committee's/Superintendent's request for funding. Discussion followed.

Bond Premium

Discussion focused on bond premium income on non-exempt debt. Currently, bond premium income on non-exempt debt is recorded as non-recurring revenue under General Local Revenue. Discussion focused on moving that income out of General Local Revenue and amortizing it over the term of the non-exempt borrowing.

Other

Article 56, Overlay Surplus Transfer for Property Revaluation was discussed. On a motion by Mr Merritt, seconded by Ms Kruse, the Committee voted to approve Article 56 in the amount of \$80,000. The motion passed 8-0.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.